

REMARKS

The previously pending claims have been replaced with new claims that are believed to be proper as to form. Withdrawal of the objection to the form of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9, and 11-12 were rejected as anticipated by SPECHT et al. 6,334,439. The previously pending claims have been replaced with new claims that avoid this rejection, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The new claims define an embodiment of the invention such as disclosed in Figure 8, for example. The numbers in the claims are included by way of explanation, not as limitations.

SPECHT et al. does not disclose the claimed rigid pipe sections that are connected to each other with a joint that is fluid-tight both in an operational position with the rigid pipe sections longitudinally aligned with each other and in a transport position with the rigid pipe sections out of longitudinal alignment with each other at the joint, where the two rigid pipe sections are foldably movable between the operational and transport positions.

SPECHT et al. disclose a tubular heat exchanger in which exhaust gases from a burner 14 are transported through heater pipes of heater 10, where the heater pipes are hinged to each other, such as shown in Figure 5. As seen in Figure 5, the

heat pipes terminate in header plates 70, 72 that are hinged together at hinge 80. As is clear, the pipe sections are not connected to each other with a joint that is fluid-tight both in an operational position with the rigid pipe sections longitudinally aligned with each other and in a transport position with the rigid pipe sections out of longitudinal alignment with each other at the joint. The two header plates must be joined to each other with bolts and after assembly the connection must be tested to be sure it is fluid tight.

SPECHT et al. also do not disclose the modular assembly with two cooling elements whose respective feed and discharge manifolds are connected to each other with fluid-tight coupling members in the operational position. By contrast, the invention defined in claim 18 allows a number of the cooling elements to be connected to each other to permit construction of rinks of diverse sizes.

Claims 4, 6, 8, and 11 were rejected as unpatentable over SPECHT et al. and claims 10 and 14-17 were rejected as unpatentable over SPECHT et al. in view of STILLWELL et al. 6,253,558. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested. STILLWELL et al. do not make up for the shortcomings of SPECHT et al. noted above and thus the new claims also avoid this rejection.

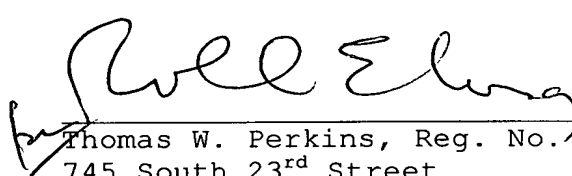
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been

placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON


Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

REG. NO
41,949

TWP/lrs

APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following items:

- a Substitute Specification with a new Verification of Translation,
- a new Abstract, and
- ten replacement drawing sheets

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The ten replacement sheets in the Appendix include formal drawings of originally filed Figures 1-14b. These sheets replace the original sheets including Figures 1-14b. The replacement drawing sheets do not introduce any new matter and include only editorial changes to place the drawings in a form more suited to U.S. practice.